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**Cannabis
Licensing
Authority**
Jamaica

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Global Demand Increases for Jamaican Cannabis

The Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) is reporting an increased demand for Jamaican ganja from the global marketplace. In recent months, the CLA has been issuing export permits to territories as far away as Australia and Germany, which are seeking local cannabis for research and medical purposes.

In total, 42 export authorisations have been issued to 10 entities trading with various regions of the globe – Africa, North America, the Caribbean, Europe and Oceania. Since the start of the year, the CLA has issued 19 export permits and has seen an increase in export permit requests by licensees. In the absence of export regulations, which is at the final stages of promulgation, the Authority created an Interim Export/Import Policy that has allowed licensees to export cannabis and its extracts since 2018.

“What this tells us is that we have been producing cannabis to the standards required of these other jurisdictions and therefore there is potential for commercial quantities to be exported in the future once markets are opened,” said the acting CEO of the Cannabis Licensing Authority, Faith Graham.

Graham said the quantities for each export varies and the purpose ranges from research, medicinal and scientific. She clarified that the CLA does not determine the quantity or destination of the export as it is the responsibility of each licensee to find their market and ensure they meet the required standards of the importing country. She encouraged the licensees to send their products for testing to the BSJ, SRC, UWI and in short order, the Mines and Geology Division, to test the cannabinoid and terpene profiles and potency of the cannabis they are producing.

“The CLA plays its part by processing the export requests and we are always working with our partners such as Customs, the JCF and the Plant Quarantine Division to see how we can become more efficient with this process,” she added.

To date, the CLA has authorised the export of approximately 1,000 kg of cannabis flower, 3 kg of seeds, and over 40 litres of cannabis oil. On the matter of trading within the industry, Graham clarified that the trading figures within the closed-loop system (among licensees), was US\$894,749 for FY 2019/2020 and US\$627,089.79 in 2020/2021. She cautions, however, that these figures do not include sales made by licensees to the public.

The CLA boss added that the well-anticipated Cultivator’s (Transitional) Special Permit is at the drafting stage, and this will present an additional avenue for small farmers to enter the industry at

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reduced costs, and over time build out their facilities to fully licensed status. This will allow for more cannabis in the legal space for Research & Development, processing, product diversification and export.

###END###

Notes to Editors:

About the Cannabis Licensing Authority: The CLA, an agency of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, which was created by the Dangerous Drug Act, has powers to make and enforce regulations for licences, permits and authorisations for the cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and transportation of ganja, for medical scientific and therapeutic purposes.

About Jamaica's UN Drug Treaty Obligation: Parties to the 1961 Single Convention undertake to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution and stocks of, trade-in and use and possession of the controlled drugs so that they are used exclusively for medical and scientific purposes. The production and distribution of controlled substances must be licensed and supervised.

Interviews: Available on request

Images: n/a

Website: www.cla.org.jm

Social Media: Facebook: facebook.com/TheCannabisLicensingAuthority

Twitter: twitter.com/cla_jamaica

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